

Abstract

A method and system for predicting postage and consumables costs for a print job prior to production of a hardcopy, wherein the print job includes a set of predefined attributes which may be used to predict the weight and size of a 5 print job. A postage rate scale for a chosen carrier may then be applied to determine the postage or shipping cost. Similarly, the print job attributes are used to predict the consumables cost to produce a hardcopy of the print job. The consumables cost thus may be combined with the postage cost to determine the total cost of production and mailing of a hardcopy.